

Summary - London Councils Grants Programme 2013-15

Background

London boroughs invest £10 million a year to help Londoners who face serious social and economic need (including violence) through the London Councils Grants Programme. The programme funds 35 voluntary organisations that deliver services direct to the people who need them and supports community organisations that improve the lives of London's population. The programme has five principles and four priorities, shaped by the views of Londoners.

Principles: The programme commissions services

That delivers effectively and can meet the outcomes specified by London Councils, rather than funding organisations.

Where there is clear evidence of need for services that complement borough and other services to support organisations that deliver services.

Where it is economical and efficient to deliver services on a London wide basis or where mobility is key to delivery of a service to secure personal safety.

That cannot reasonably be delivered locally, at a borough or sub-regional level.

That work with statutory and non-statutory partners and contribute to meeting the objectives of the Equality Act 2010.

Priorities:

Homelessness	Tackling homelessness among individuals and households directly and developing new ways of working across organisations to generate housing and accommodation and improve access to services.
Sexual and Domestic Violence	Preventing sexual and domestic violence, helping people at risk and helping people affected by it to get help from emergency services.
ESF tackling poverty through employment	(Half funded by the European Social Fund): Enabling people to gain a job or work-related training.
Capacity building	Enabling organisations to get skills and resources to provide effective services, be more efficient and to work jointly through partnerships or mergers.

London wide

The programme operates in all parts of London and focuses on needs that are best addressed on a London wide basis. For example, the programme:

- Picks up specific pockets of need that are difficult to address at a borough level such as: people seeking to exit prostitution/ trafficking, female genital mutilation and other harmful practices, particular equalities/target groups experiencing homelessness (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, ex-offenders), small voluntary organisations in need of specific tailored support (eg, disabled people's organisations).
- Joins up services, ensuring vulnerable people do not fall between the gaps in services through having large pan-London consortiums providing a range of support mechanisms.
- Helps people get services across borough boundaries, whether from fleeing violence/ persecution (eg, domestic violence, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender related homelessness), or because they identify more with the particular service than their location (eg, specific cultural need).
- Looks for economies of scale, efficiency and quality of service (for example, it would not make sense to commission a domestic violence helpline or schools prevention work at a borough level).
- Fits with other London wide programmes such as the Greater London Authorities' 'no second night out' homelessness scheme and the four rape crisis centres across London.

London Councils encourages partnership working to make sure services are delivered across London. By working in partnership, organisations can share ideas and best practice, widen their reach and get a variety of funding. Most funded projects are delivered via voluntary organisations working in partnership, where London Councils funds a lead partner to manage the partnership, handle reporting, and distribute funds to the partners.

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Performance 2013-2015

Many people and organisations across London have benefited from the London Councils Grants Programme in the last two years, April 2013 to March 2015. The numbers are shown below. Each of the programmes priorities has outcomes that services aim to achieve. These are shown below. Some of these apply to individual people and some to organisations.

Priority	Outcome	Number of people	% reached against London wide targets
Homelessness	Homelessness: Early intervention and prevention	30,950	92%
	Youth homelessness	9,058	105%
	Support services to homelessness voluntary sector organisations*	240	100%
Sexual and Domestic Violence	Sexual and Domestic Violence: Prevention	82,100	98%
	Advice, counselling, outreach, drop-in and support for access to services	26,543	131%
	Helpline and coordinated access to refuge provision	39,118	93%
	Emergency refuge accommodation that offers services to meet the needs of specific groups	1,285	114%
	Support services to the sexual and domestic violence voluntary sector organisations*	706	221%
	Specifically targeted services female genital mutilation, honour based violence, forced marriage and other harmful practices	1,665	146%
ESF tackling poverty through employment	Total Sum Enrolled - reported	3,865	106%
	Parents with long-term work limiting health conditions	304	115%
	People with mental health needs	438	126%
	People from ethnic groups with low labour market participation	1,448	101%
	Women facing barriers to employment	1,461	109%
	People recovering from drug and/or alcohol addiction or misuse	214	84%
Capacity building	Providing support to London's voluntary and community organisations*	7,148	92%
* These figures are for number of organisations not numbers of people			

The programme is managed by London Councils to make sure it is working effectively. Projects collect data and evidence of the difference they are making. They also ask people who use their services what they think. Projects have largely performed above their targets over the last two years. For further information please see the latest performance report. <http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/node/26716>

Legislative Framework

The London Councils Grants programme was established in primary legislation in 1985. Section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985, empowers boroughs to establish a grants programme to make grants to the voluntary and community sector. The Leaders' Committee sets the overall funding strategies, policies, and priorities for funding to voluntary organisations. Decisions on individual commissions, funding of applications and programme operation are made by the Grants Committee comprising members of each of the 32 London boroughs and the City of London.

Homelessness

The services funded under each priority focus on specific issues. Tackling homelessness amongst individuals and households through direct services and/or developing new ways of working with partners to generate housing and accommodation and access services.

Strand 1.1: Early intervention and prevention of homelessness: Preventing homelessness by taking early action through advice, information and support to those at risk of homelessness. Services provide targeted housing support, early advice, signposting and referrals, access to accommodation addressing specific needs, support with tenancy sustainment, debt advice, access to a range of health and drop in/day centre services and activities which develop skills and increase opportunities.

Strand 1.2 Youth homelessness: Reducing the number of young people age 16 -24 becoming homeless in London and helping young black, Asian, and minority ethnic community people who are already homeless to access appropriate accommodation and services. Young people once homeless are often faced with unfit and unsuitable housing choices. The range of services provided includes access to appropriate accommodation, outreach work in schools and youth centres, family mediation, advice and advocacy, counselling, independent living skills, training and access to voluntary and/or employment opportunities.

Strand 1.3 Support services to the homelessness voluntary sector organisations to assist them to deliver better services: Providing support, specialist, advice, training and capacity building support to frontline organisations providing services particularly to equalities groups who are most impacted by homelessness, or risk of homelessness. The focus of the service is to support organisations to develop high quality services tailored to the needs of equalities groups, including frontline homelessness organisations for black, Asian, minority ethnic, refugee and migrant groups (BAMER), women, specialist homelessness services for older people, young people and specialist homelessness services for Lesbian, Gay, transgender and bisexual (LGBT) groups and or homelessness services for Deaf and disabled groups.

Projects promote partnership working between homelessness organisations, particularly smaller specialist agencies working with protected groups. It also helps to raise awareness about the impact of homelessness. Funding supports these organisations with information about changing policy and regulations within housing, and provides them with information about access to funding and resources, to enable them to be more financially sustainable.

Sexual and Domestic Violence

The services funded under each priority focus on specific issues. Preventing sexual and domestic violence and assisting people affected by sexual and domestic violence to access emergency services and access to services by people at risk.

Strand 2.1: Prevention; Preventing future sexual and domestic violence by addressing gender stereotypes and negative attitudes towards the acceptability of sexual and domestic violence. Services cover a range of interventions in schools and youth settings. Delivery results in lasting change, through equipping professionals to continue delivering the messages. Young people are diverted from engaging in unhealthy relationships and instead understand the benefits of healthier inter-personal relationships.

Strand: 2.2 Advice, counselling, outreach, drop-in and support for access to services; Providing support to those who have experienced sexual and domestic violence. This is delivered through a number of methods, such as access to accredited counselling, support, group work, advice, outreach, drop-in services, referral and access to services. Services include early intervention work and support those affected to rebuild their lives and remove themselves from dangerous situations. This strand also includes work with service providers to increase their knowledge of this area.

Strand 2.3 Helpline and coordinated access to refuge provision; Providing a helpline service to ensure access to a full range of sexual and domestic violence services. Supporting borough officers to access support for their residents and in the collation of data.

Strand 2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation that offers services to meet the needs of specific groups: Provision of specialist emergency accommodation for those experiencing sexual and domestic violence delivering appropriate support to meet particular needs. Specialist provision includes drug and alcohol misuse, culturally specific provision, access for disabled people, women with no recourse, exiting prostitution, mental health and complex needs.

The primary outcome for the service is the safety of those in immediate danger, leading to longer term outcomes around leaving abusive situations and rebuilding independent lives, making safe choices for their children, increased self-esteem and confidence, health and wellbeing and reduced levels of drug/alcohol misuse.

Strand 2.5: Support services to sexual and domestic violence voluntary sector organisations to assist them to deliver better services: Supports voluntary and community organisations working in the sexual and domestic violence sector to improve practice, financial sustainability, build capacity, build knowledge of policy, build partnerships/consortiums, work with local networks, monitor, evaluate and adapt services effectively.

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Services support statutory agencies through effective and coordinated data collection in association with strand 2.3. Activities include, workshops, organisation health checks, advice on funding streams, network meetings and policy updates.

Strand 2.6: Specifically targeted services for women affected by female genital mutilation (FGM), Honour based violence (HBV), forced marriage (FM) and other harmful practices: Providing culturally specific services to survivors of and those at risk of FGM, HBV, forced marriage and other harmful practices. Services raise women's awareness of the choices available to them and help them to make safer choices and exit violent situations. Services also help them to rebuild their confidence, health, emotional well-being and independence.

Equalities Information

The following table outlines the protected groups that benefit from funding in priority one and two (marked with an X).

Protected Groups that benefit from Priority 1 and 2					
Ethnic Background		Gender/Identity		Age	
Asian – Bangladeshi	X	Female	X	Under 16	X
Asian – British	X	Male	X	16-17	X
Asian – Indian	X	Transgender	X	18-24	X
Asian – Pakistani	X	Other	X	25-34	X
Asian – Other	X			35-44	X
Black – African	X	Sexual Orientation		45-54	X
Black – British	X	Bisexual	X	55-64	X
Black – Caribbean	X	Gay Man	X	65+	X
Black – Other	X	Heterosexual	X		
Chinese	X	Lesbian	X	Pregnancy or maternity	
Latin American	X	Other	X	Pregnancy/maternity	X
Middle Eastern	X			Marriage or Civil Partnership	
White – British	X	Religion/Belief		Pregnancy/maternity	X
White – Irish	X	Agnostic	X		
White – European	X	Atheist	X		
White – Other	X	Baha'i	X		
Mixed Ethnicity	X	Buddhist	X		
		Christian	X		
Disabled		Hindu	X		
Blind or Visual Impairment	X	Humanist	X		
Learning Difficulty	X	Jain	X		
Mental health	X	Jewish	X		
Mobility	X	Muslim	X		
Other disability	X	Rastafarian	X		
		Sikh	X		
		Zoroastrian	X		
Deaf		None	X		
Deaf or Hearing Impairment	X	Other	X		

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Tackling poverty through employment

The services funded under each priority focus on specific issues. Tackling poverty by promoting access to employment and training is half funded by the London boroughs and half funded by the European Social Fund. This priority:

- Enables people to be successful in gaining a job or work related training.
- Provides training and preparation for employment to people who are out of work, able to work in the UK and offers a continuous programme of training with 75 per cent gaining a job, additional employment support or voluntary work within 6 weeks and 17 per cent remaining in a job for 6 months.

The programme is focused on people who face additional challenges in gaining employment including older people, women with children and people with special requirements who are not in the Work Programme for example, adults with long-term work limiting health conditions including mental health or a disability, ethnic groups with language and cultural barriers and people recovering from drug or alcohol misuse.

Equalities Information

The following table outlines the protected groups that benefit from funding in priority three (marked with an X).

Protected Groups that benefit from Priority 3					
Ethnic Background		Sexual Orientation		Age	
Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi	X	Bisexual	X	16-17	X
Asian or Asian British – Indian	X	Gay Man	X	18-24	X
Asian or Asian British – Pakistani	X	Heterosexual	X	25-34	X
Asian or Asian British – Other	X	Lesbian	X	35-44	X
Black or Black British – African	X	Other	X	45-54	X
Black or Black British – Caribbean	X			55-64	X
Black or Black British – Other	X	Religion/Belief		65+	X
Chinese	X	Agnostic	X	Pregnancy or maternity	
Mixed – White and Asian	X	Atheist	X	Pregnancy/maternity	X
Mixed – White and Black African	X	Baha'i		Marriage/Civil Partnership	
Mixed – White and Black Caribbean	X	Buddhist	X	Pregnancy/maternity	X
Mixed – Other Mixed Background	X	Christian	X		
White – Irish	X	Hindu	X		
White – British	X	Humanist	X		
White – Other	X	Jain	X		
Any other ethnic background	X	Jewish	X		
Disabled*		Muslim	X		
Yes	X	Rastafarian	X		
		Sikh	X		
Deaf**		Zoroastrian	X		
Gender/Identity		None	X		
Female	X	Other	X		
Male	X				
Transgender	X				

* Priority 3 only collects information relating to whether participants have a disability or not, but no further detail about the type of disability.

** Priority 3 does not collect information relating to whether participants are Deaf or have Hearing Impairments.

Providing support to London's voluntary and community organisations

Funding enables organisations to access skills and resources to provide effective services to communities. Services support organisations to deliver effectively and to achieve efficiencies and improve stability through delivering services jointly through partnerships or mergers.

Funding provides support to voluntary and community organisations through:

- Sharing of good practice, improving access to information
- Achieving greater diversification of funding, access to funding and additional sources of finance
- Increasing skills in management, delivery, and data collection of services
- Improving service delivery by the development of partnerships and collaboration.

Equalities Information

The following table outlines the protected groups that benefit from funding in priority four (marked with an X).

Protected Groups that benefit from Priority 4					
Ethnic Background		Gender/Identity		Age	
Asian – Bangladeshi	X	Female	X	Under 16	X
Asian – British	X	Male	X	16-17	X
Asian – Indian	X	Transgender		18-24	X
Asian – Pakistani	X	Other		25-34	X
Asian – Other				35-44	X
Black – African	X	Sexual Orientation		45-54	X
Black – British	X	Bisexual	X	55-64	X
Black – Caribbean	X	Gay Man	X	65+	X
Black – Other	X	Heterosexual	X		
Chinese	X	Lesbian	X	Pregnancy or maternity	
Latin American	X	Other	X	Pregnancy/maternity	X
Middle Eastern	X			Marriage or Civil Partnership	
White – British	X	Religion/Belief		Marriage/Civil Partnership	
White – Irish	X	Agnostic	X		
White – European	X	Atheist	X		
White – Other		Baha'i			
Mixed Ethnicity	X	Buddhist			
		Christian	X		
Disabled		Hindu	X		
Blind or Visual Impairment	X	Humanist	X		
Learning Difficulty	X	Jain			
Mental health	X	Jewish	X		
Mobility	X	Muslim	X		
Other disability		Rastafarian			
		Sikh			
		Zoroastrian			
Deaf		None	X		
Deaf or Hearing Impairment	X	Other	X		